

# Once More Unto the Breach



America couldn't be prouder of its military and how the United States and coalition forces have waged this campaign against Iraq and Saddam Hussein. I have watched with awe and am amazed how our soldiers, airmen, and Marines have fought with bravery, tenacity, and courage under extremely harsh conditions and against an enemy who disregards rules of war. Despite early criticism by the media pundits and so-called experts, our forces have put forth a superlative effort resulting in minimal casualties. The years of honing our skills at home station, the National Training Center, and the Combat Maneuver Training Center have validated our training philosophy and provided our leaders with the ability to adapt our warfighting capability to any situation. The men and women of our fighting divisions should be proud of what they have accomplished.

The M1A1 Abrams tank has once again proven itself in battle. Our armor and cavalry units have inflicted horrendous destruction on the Iraqi Republican Guard, regular Iraqi army units, and paramilitary fighters. It is obvious that the need for the heavy force remains. I am certain that once hostilities end, the debate will return to justifying the elimination of the M1A1 and A2 tanks and replacing them with a lighter and more mobile force. Perhaps improving the Abrams fleet is a better idea, and until a weapons system can be produced that will match the lethality, mobility, and survivability of the M1 Abrams tank, heavy divisions equipped with the Abrams must remain part of our fighting force.

Commanders continue to be challenged to conduct peace operations ever more effectively. In their article, "The Visible Hand: An Armor Unit Looks at the Changing Face of Peacekeeping in the Balkans," CPT Eric Guenther, 1LT David Thayer, and 1LT Tyler Hathaway discuss one of the latest developments in peacekeeping — how commanders can develop effective measures to encourage a level of economic development sufficient for host nations to run their own affairs without international intervention.

According to 7th Army Training Command's Commanding General, BG Robert M. Williams, "The Two-Minute Drill is analogous to what a great football team does. Right before the end of the game, when the game is up in two more minutes, they go full press on offensive plays to get themselves to the goal line. So our two-minute drill is designed to get the great 1st Armored Division sharpened, as much as we can sharpen it, before it moves out." In her article, "The Two-Minute Drill," Karen Parrish explains how this new training capability came about.

Weapons are becoming increasingly lethal while the technologies used to control these weapons are becoming more accurate through applying digital technology. However, soldiers who operate the digital controls still possess the strengths and weaknesses of the analog human being. LTC John Drebus explains in his article, "Analog Leaders on the Digital Battlefield," that combat leaders must learn to employ digital technology and reap its advantages while still retaining the analog tools that provide reliable backup and the analog skills that are ultimately the only means of successfully leading human soldiers.

The October War of 1973 changed how modern armies would fight future battles with new technologies and tactics associated with technology. In his article, "The October War," CPT William Brown demonstrates that a lucky and clever enemy could outfight a technologically advanced force as the Egyptians had done with the Israelis.

In addition to these focused sections, *ARMOR* presents several other articles. In "Air-Ground Integration in the Heavy Division," CPT Henry Perry, CPT Murphy Caine, and 1LT Joseph Bruhl describe how the integration of direct fires, tied to decisive events of the ground maneuver scheme, and accurate and timely integration of indirect fires, are the ultimate goals of air-ground integration. In "Mortar Training and Integration," CPT Michael Porcelli explains how to effectively train mortar platoons in an armor battalion. CPT Scott Mace provides an excellent overview of the "Army's First ADAM Cell." In "Course-of-Action Development for the Maneuverist Approach," LTC Kevin Poling outlines a methodology that will allow battalion-sized units to develop a sound and simple tactical plan using task and meaningful purpose, and to communicate that plan effectively to subordinates.

I want to thank our subscribers for helping the Armor Association reach nearly historic membership numbers. We now have 5,200 members — a number we haven't seen since the 1980s when the Army had 18 divisions. These numbers are a testament to the loyalty, dedication, and professionalism of our members. Thank you.

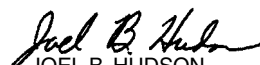
I hope to see many familiar faces at the Armor Conference. Please stop by the Armor Association booth at Skidgel Hall and attend the annual Association Banquet. We will have a great guest speaker, as well as a good time reacquainting and socializing with old friends. God Bless the U.S.A.

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